

ensemble connect

**Artistry.
Education.
Advocacy.
Entrepreneurship.**



Fadi Khair

Ensemble Connect is a two-year fellowship program for the finest young professional classical musicians in the United States that prepares them for careers that combine musical excellence with teaching, community engagement, advocacy, entrepreneurship, and leadership. It offers top-quality performance opportunities, intensive professional development, and the opportunity to partner throughout the fellowship with a New York City public school.



Performance at National Sawdust



Student performance at The Juilliard School



Performance in Weill Recital Hall



Interactive community performance at AHRC

“After being part of this program, I felt that anything I wanted music to do could be done.”

—Nathan Schram, Alumnus

2017–2018 Performance Highlights

The musicians of Ensemble Connect continue into their second year of the fellowship during the 2017–2018 season with four concerts in Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall and four concerts in Paul Hall at The Juilliard School. The program also continues its biannual residency at Skidmore College. This season, Ensemble Connect gives the world premiere performance of a new commission by Gabriel Kahane and performs works by Bernstein, Schubert, Tchaikovsky, Schoenberg, Copland, and Steve Reich, among others.

Partnership with New York City Public Schools

Ensemble Connect’s in-school residencies represent one of the largest in-depth collaborations between a cultural institution and New York City public schools. Each Ensemble Connect fellow is partnered with a public school for a 25-day residency over the course of each year. Fellows bring mastery of their instruments as well as a professional performer’s perspective to music classrooms in all five boroughs of New York City. They partner with each school’s instrumental music teacher to strengthen students’ musical skills through a creativity-rich approach, according to the school’s needs. In-school activities include instrumental teaching, large-scale creative projects, and performance demonstrations. Coupled with the residency, fellows create, develop, and perform assembly-style interactive performances crafted around a musical theme with a small group of Ensemble Connect colleagues. The fellows’ two-year partnerships in schools culminate at the end of the season with their

Partner School Performance Festival in The Juilliard School’s Peter Jay Sharp Theater. More than 400 students participate in this celebratory event, showcasing works they have learned and original compositions they have written.

Community Work in New York City

Each season, fellows take interactive performances to community-based settings across New York City through Musical Connections, a program of Carnegie Hall’s Weill Music Institute. This program is designed to bring live music to people living in challenging situations, such as correctional facilities, homeless shelters, and healthcare settings. Fellows also perform several times per year as part of Carnegie Hall’s free Neighborhood Concerts series.

Skidmore College Residency

For the 11th consecutive year, Ensemble Connect returns to Saratoga Springs, New York, for two five-day residencies at Skidmore College. During these residencies, the fellows engage with Skidmore College students, as well as the broader Saratoga Springs community. While on campus, they work with music department students, offering master classes, lessons, and class demonstrations. The fellows also play side-by-side with the students of the Skidmore College Orchestra and read student composers’ new works. In addition, the fellows offer collaborative demonstrations and informal performances beyond the music department in classes, dormitories, and libraries, as well as in schools and other community venues in the Saratoga Springs area.

Professional Development

Throughout the two-year program, Ensemble Connect fellows participate in rigorous, ongoing professional development to support the necessary skills to be successful in all areas of the program and to become leaders in their field. Areas of emphasis include artistic excellence, engagement strategies both on and off the stage (including interactive performances), entrepreneurship, leadership, and preparation for their work in the schools. Sessions are led by experts in the performing arts, professional teaching artists, and Ensemble Connect alumni. Clive Gillinson, executive and artistic director of Carnegie Hall, and Joseph W. Polisi, president of The Juilliard School, curate and lead sessions in the leadership and entrepreneurship areas of the program, respectively. Coaching sessions are also provided to fellows, as well as the opportunity to work with composers whose works they are performing, such as Thomas Adès, John Adams, David Lang, Meredith Monk, and Steve Reich.

Ensemble Connect Alumni

Over the past 10 years since Ensemble Connect was established, Carnegie Hall has maintained close

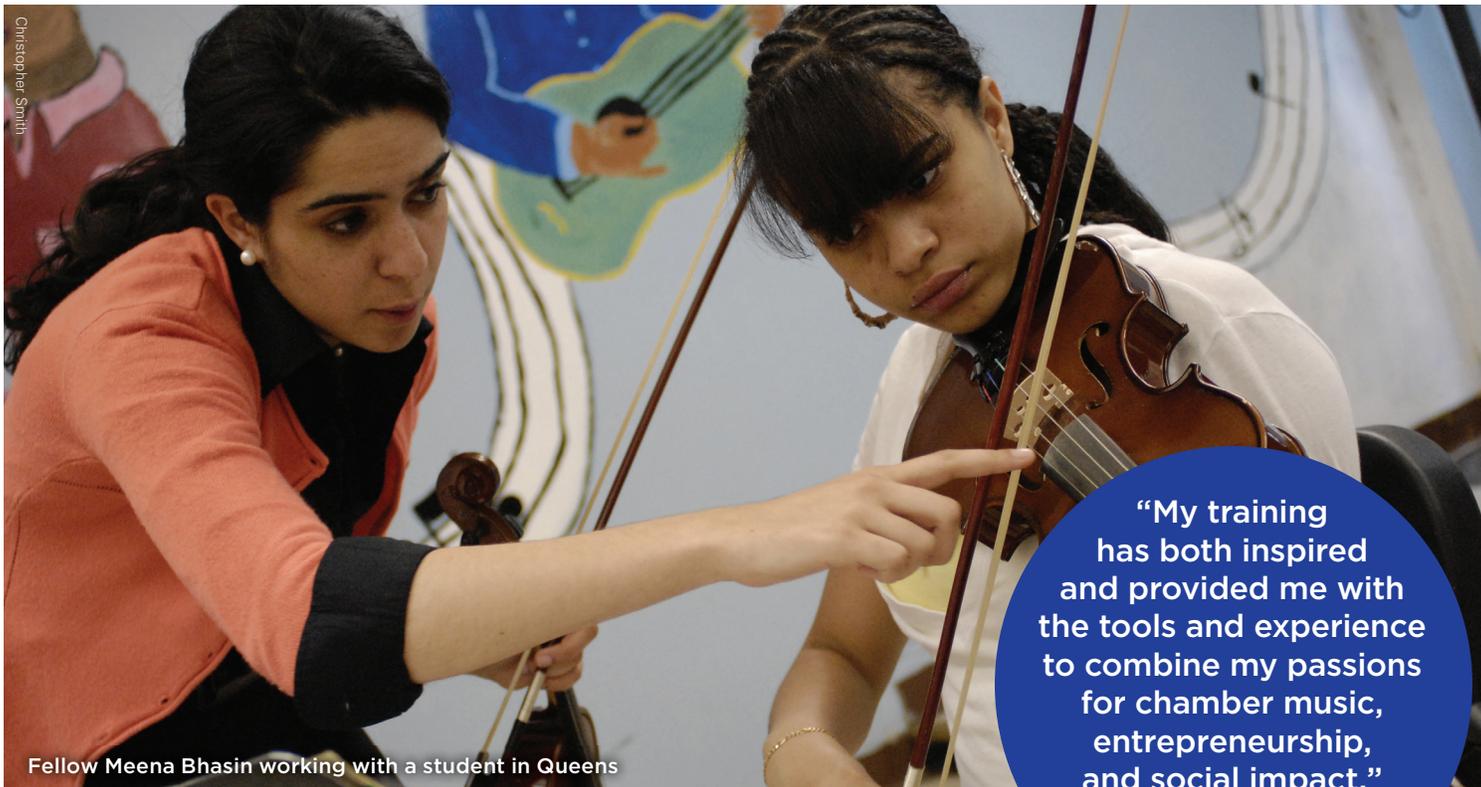
relationships with the program’s 101 alumni. As the reputation of this group has grown, demand for work by its alumni has developed as well. In 2011, Decoda—an ensemble exclusively made up of Ensemble Connect alumni—was formed and later named an affiliate ensemble of Carnegie Hall. Additionally, alumni perform with current fellows in Ensemble Connect, lead professional development sessions, serve as advisors for current fellows, and perform as part of the Weill Music Institute’s Musical Connections program. Alumni are at the forefront of initiatives that use their art form to impact a wide variety of audiences around the world; examples include Notes with a Purpose in Las Vegas, Musicambia in New York, New Docta International Music Festival in Argentina, Scrag Mountain Music in Vermont, and Reveler in California. Many alumni also hold faculty and guest artist teaching positions at US universities and colleges.

Ensemble Connect by the Numbers

- 18 current fellows
- 101 alumni
- 80 New York City public school partners
- 80 New York City public school partner music teachers
- More than 50,000 New York City public school students served
- Ensemble Connect has premiered 18 new works, including pieces by Samuel Carl Adams, Timo Andres, Missy Mazzoli, Meredith Monk, Caroline Shaw, and Sleeping Giant.
- Ensemble Connect alumni currently participate in more than 90 performing ensembles in the US and around the world, including the New York Philharmonic, The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Orchestra of St. Luke’s, St. Lawrence String Quartet, The Knights, Canadian Brass, Attacca Quartet, International Contemporary Ensemble, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, and more.

“They are wonderful players ... at the highest level. It makes me very optimistic about the future of music when you have these people who also have realized that they have to be evangelists, not high priests. So they must give out of themselves because otherwise the art form is going to die.”

—Sir Simon Rattle



Christopher Smith

Fellow Meena Bhasin working with a student in Queens

“My training has both inspired and provided me with the tools and experience to combine my passions for chamber music, entrepreneurship, and social impact.”
—Meena Bhasin, Alumna

About Ensemble Connect

Called “a valuable part of New York’s musical fabric” by *The New York Times*, Ensemble Connect is made up of some of the finest young professional classical musicians in the United States who are taking part in a two-year fellowship program created in 2007 by Carnegie Hall, The Juilliard School, and the Weill Music Institute in partnership with the New York City Department of Education. The program prepares fellows for careers that combine musical excellence with teaching, community engagement, advocacy, entrepreneurship, and leadership by offering them top-quality performance opportunities, intensive professional development, and the opportunity to partner throughout the fellowship with a New York City public school.

As performers on the concert stage and in their work in schools and communities, musicians of Ensemble Connect have earned accolades from critics and audiences alike for the quality of their concerts, their fresh and open-minded approach to programming, and their ability to actively engage any audience.

Exemplary performers, dedicated teachers, and advocates for music throughout the community, the forward-looking musicians of Ensemble Connect are redefining what it means to be a musician in the 21st century.

“It’s not only a class and it’s not only a teacher—it’s a place where we feel that we can grow as people and as musicians. Learning an instrument helps your mind intellectually, and it helps you improve in every other class. So this class helps us in every way possible. It’s like a haven.”
—Student, Grover Cleveland High School

A program of Carnegie Hall, The Juilliard School, and the Weill Music Institute in partnership with the New York City Department of Education

Major funding has been provided by The Diller–von Furstenberg Family Foundation, Susan and Edward C. Forst and *Goldman Sachs Gives*, the Max H. Gluck Foundation, the Irving Harris Foundation, The Kovner Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Lester S. Morse Jr., Phyllis and Charles Rosenthal, The Edmond de Rothschild Foundations, The Morris and Alma Schapiro Fund, and Ernst & Young LLP.

Additional support has been provided by Mr. and Mrs. Nicola Bulgari, Leslie and Tom Maheras, Susan and Elihu Rose Foundation, Sarah Billingham Solomon and Howard Solomon, and Trust for Mutual Understanding.

Public support is provided by the New York City Department of Education, the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

Ensemble Connect is also supported, in part, by an endowment grant from The Kovner Foundation.



CARNEGIE HALL

Juilliard

Weill Music Institute